



## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: October 31, 2008

#### **DLNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE CELEBRATES 40-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH ANNUAL ARBOR DAY PLANT SALE -- Welcomes Community to their Pua Loke Nursery**

LIHU'E — The Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) invites the public to their Pua Loke Nursery on Friday, November 7 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for their annual plant sale in celebration of Hawai'i's Arbor Day. Pua Loke Nursery is located at 4398-D Pua Loke St. in Lihu'e.

This marks 40 years since the first Division of Forestry and Wildlife plant sale was held in 1968.

Looking through old records, Galen Kawakami, Kaua'i DOFAW forestry management supervisor, found that at the pilot sale in 1968 a variety of trees were grown by DOFAW and sold by the Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce for ten cents a piece, including Norfolk Island pine, monkey pod, mango, eucalyptus, Bermuda juniper, and Mexican cypress.

"There were no native species at that first one," said Kawakami, "We have come a long way in expanding the number of species we are able to grow and sell; as well as what we have been outplanting in forest reserve lands."

Local floral enthusiasts and rare plant collectors look forward to the annual event, especially since DOFAW began offering federally listed threatened and endangered plants, plants native to Hawai'i and used for the State's conservation programs.

This year's anniversary sale will feature a diverse array of Kaua'i's botanical gems, such as Ma'o hau hele (*Hibiscus brackenridgei*), Aloalo (*Hibiscus clayi*), Hau kauhiwi (*Hibiscadelphus distans*), Uhiuhi (*Caesalpinia kawaiensis*), and Loulu (*Pritchardia remota*). All of these species are endemic to Hawai'i, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world, and will bear a numbered tag for authenticity. **[additional species information below]**

Arbor day sale attendees will also find more common native plants available, including another subspecies of 'Aweoweo ( *Chenopodium oahuense* ), Kou ( *Cordia subcordata* ), and Wiliwili ( *Erythrina sandwicensis* ), as well as canoe plants Kamani, Milo, and Noni, which are all used in la'au lapa'au (Hawaiian herbology).

In addition to encouraging the use of native species in home landscaping, DOFAW will offer Puakenikeni ( *Fagraea berteriana* ), a non-invasive exotic ornamental cherished for its fragrant flowers used for lei making.

This is a great opportunity to support DOFAW's programs on Kaua'i, as well as bring home plants to cultivate a native garden.

Prices range from \$3-\$10, depending on the species and size. For more information, please call 274-3433.



### About the plants for sale:

#### Threatened and Endangered Native Species

**Hibiscus brackenridgei** ( *Ma ' o hau hele* ), the state flower, is a beautiful, bright-yellow native hibiscus that grows in dry forests and found on all the main Hawaiian Islands.

**Hibiscus clayi** ( *Aloalo* ), found in dry forests on the east side of Kaua'i, this native hibiscus is rare and endangered in the wild. It has a miniature red flower and small, shiny, oval-shaped leaves that stand out in a garden.

**Hibiscadelphus distans** ( *Hau kuahiwi* ), an endangered native plant related to the hibiscus, with very few plants left in the wild. It has a small, curved, green, tubular flower with large nectaries that evolved with its pollinators, the endemic honeycreepers such as the 'I'iwi bird. It grows in dry to mesic forest habitats.

**Caesalpinia kawaiiensis** ( *Uhi Uhi* ) is an endangered native legume tree that grows to about 30 feet and found in dry to mesic forests on the main Hawaiian islands. Rare in the wild, it has hard, dense wood that is near black in color and was used by Hawaiians for hale posts, weapons, fishing spears, shark hooks, kapa boards and beaters, and farm tools such as the ' o ' o.

**Pritchardia remota** ( *Loulu* ) is an endangered native fan palm found on the remote island of Nihoa. It will grow in dry, coastal areas. *Loulu* was used for the construction of *heiau loulu* that were used as temporary fishing shrines to pray to the gods who presided over fishing. The leaves were used as a plaiting material to make baskets and fans.

#### Common Native Species

Other native plants featured is the more common shrub **Chenopodium oahuense** ( 'Aweoweo, 'Aheaha ) found in dry coastal to dry forest habitats and **Cordia subcordata** ( *Kou* ), a small to medium tree, indigenous to the Hawaiian islands and valued for its use in woodworking, medicine and dyes. Its bright-orange flowers make beautiful lei, an ideal tree for lowland, leeward areas.

Another indigenous tree, **Erythrina sandwicensis** ( *Wiliwili* ), at one time found growing

abundantly in Nawiliwili, can still be found in coastal to dry forest habitats on the leeward side of the island. *Wiliwili* can grow anywhere from 18-45 feet tall. The soft, whitish wood was used by Hawaiians for surfboards, net floats, and outriggers on canoes, and the red-orange colored seeds were sewn into lei.

### **Canoe Plants**

Featured canoe plants brought to Hawai‘i by Polynesians are two trees ***Calophyllum inophyllum*** ( *Kamani* ) and ***Thespesia populnea*** ( *Milo* ), and the all-important medicinal plant, ***Morinda citrifolia*** ( *Noni* ). *Kamani* wood was used for bowls, in hale and canoe construction and the fruit extract used as a dye. *Milo* wood was made into poi bowls ( *‘umeke ‘ai* ) and plates, its bark used for cordage. Both *Kamani* and *Milo* were used medicinally as well. *Noni* was a most valuable medicinal plant to native Hawaiians. The leaves, bark, root, and fruit could be used externally for bruises, boils, wounds and skin eruptions, as well as poultices for broken bones. Juice prepared from the fruit was taken internally for all kinds of ailments.

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